

**An Archaeological Watching Brief for an
Extension to the Sewerage Treatment Works,
Wymondham, Leicestershire (SK 850 183)**

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For Severn Trent Water

**University of Leicester Archaeological Services
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An Archaeological Watching Brief for an Extension to the Sewerage Treatment Works, Wymondham, Leicestershire (SK 850 183)

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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during January 2005 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services for Severn Trent Water during groundworks for the extension of the sewerage treatment works, Wymondham, Leicestershire. Nottingham University Consultants Limited, on behalf of Severn Trent Water Plc, recommended that there should be archaeological attendance and recording during the extension of the sewerage treatment works to ensure that any affected deposits were adequately recorded. The site is in the vicinity of the medieval core of Wymondham, and close to a Roman villa site (LE4243) and medieval ponds (LE4245), and was seen to have a high potential for containing archaeological remains. However no archaeological features were located and no significant archaeological finds were recovered during the observed groundworks at the site. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team under the Accession Number X.A156.2005.

2 Introduction

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during groundworks for an extension to the sewerage treatment works, Wymondham, Leicestershire (Fig. 1). Nottingham University Consultants Ltd. (NUCL) as archaeological consultants for Severn Trent Water Ltd. produced a *Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief with Contingency for Further Excavation at Wymondham STW, Leicestershire*. The Specification identified that the Wymondham STW were in the vicinity of the historic village core of Wymondham and that fishponds were located immediately to the north of the extension area.

3 Aims and Methods

3.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's (IFA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. The work also was in accordance with the Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (1997) and followed the *Design specification for archaeological work* (ULAS 25.8.2004; Appendix).

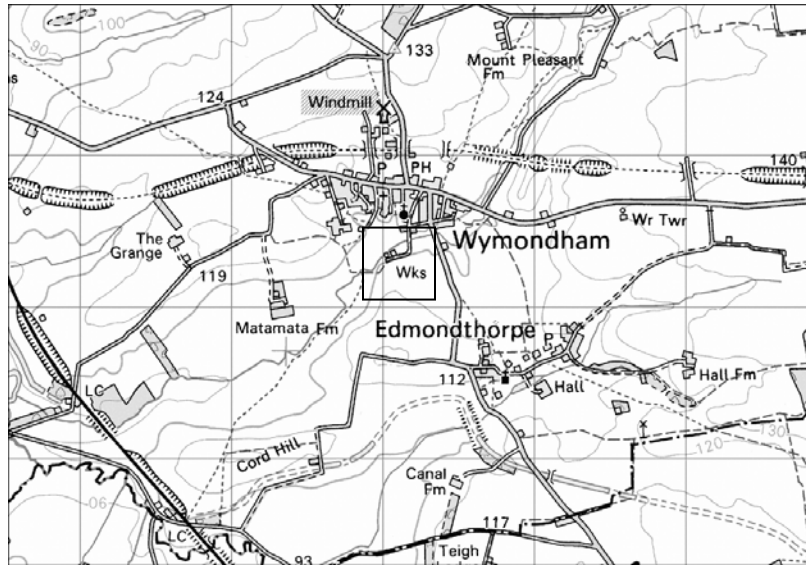


Fig. 1. Site location Scale 1:50000

Reproduced from the Landranger OS map 130 Grantham area 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 10002186.

3.2 The archaeological work was carried out on the 30th of November 2004 and 11th and 12th January 2005. Three site visits were needed to monitor the removal of subsoil in the area of the reed bed and driveway, and the excavation of a trench around the outside of the reed bed area.

3.3 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To assess the local, regional and national importance of any deposits.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

5.2 A Roman villa site is located in the field adjacent, to the northwest, to the sewerage treatment works (**LE4243**). Nottingham University have been undertaking training excavations at the site. The remains of three rooms of a Roman villa with tessellated pavement and a probable courtyard area have been exposed during the excavation. It is believed that the pavement is not that which was exposed during the excavations on the site in the 17th century. One room has a geometric patterned floor, one is chequerboard and the other has no pattern. Very little of the walls survive, however one section of very well preserved wall measuring 90 cm wide is present. Pottery dating to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries has been recovered.

6 Results

6.1 The stripping of topsoil and subsoil was undertaken by a JCB 3 using 1.50m wide flat-bladed bucket. Archaeological observation and a record were made during the excavation, and spoil from the stripping was examined for finds.

6.2 The initial part of the watching brief, undertaken on 30.11.04, consisted of stripping a trench around the north, east and south boundary of the extension area. The trench was 0.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. Topsoil and subsoil was removed, although very little natural was truncated. The subsoil consisted of mid-orangey brown silty clay. Natural appeared to be a yellowish brown and grey boulder clay. No finds were observed in the topsoil. The trenches were backfilled with sand.



Fig. 3. Photograph of reed bed area once topsoil has been stripped, facing north.

6.3 The second phase of the watching brief commenced on 11.01.05. Topsoil had been removed to a depth of 0.2m the previous day. Stripping exposed evidence of a previous modern structure in the western half of the extension area, and a land drain in the eastern half of the area (fig. 3). Fragmentary modern brick, concrete, glass and ceramics were observed. The subsoil consisted of mid-orange brown silty clay.

6.4 Excavation of the reed beds began on 12.01.05. The reed beds were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m (fig. 4). The natural observed appeared to consist of light blue-grey clay. No archaeological features or finds were observed during the excavation of the reed beds. Due to time constraints the entire excavation of the reed beds could not be observed.



Fig. 4. Photograph of reed bed area once topsoil and subsoil have been stripped, facing north.

6.5 No significant archaeological finds were observed during the watching brief. Some modern (20th century) pottery sherds were present in the topsoil and spoil heaps. After identification, this pottery was discarded.

7 Discussion

7.1 No archaeological features or finds were observed during the watching brief for an extension to the sewerage treatment works, Wymondham.

7.2 The sewerage treatment works are located outside the historic core of the village, and it is likely that the site area was used as agricultural land during the medieval and post-medieval periods. As a result of this archaeological remains of earlier periods if present are likely to have been eroded by ploughing.

8 Archive

8.1 The archive will be held by the Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council, which consists of a written record of the watching brief and digital photographs (Accession Number X.A156.2005).

9 Publication

9.1 A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

10 Acknowledgements

10.1 The watching brief was undertaken by Sam George and James Harvey. The project was managed by Patrick Clay.

11 References

Morgan, P.	1979	<i>Domesday Book 22 Leicestershire</i> . Phillimore
(ed.)		and co. Ltd

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